

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 ARA-10 EUR-08 SP-02
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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 027444

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, UNSC, ET, SO

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON THE HORN

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1. IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS OF ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI CONFLICT
IN OGADEN WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS, MISSION OFFICERS
SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. US IS DEEPLY CONCERNED AT CONTINUING BLOODSHED AND
SUFFERING RESULTING FROM OGADEN CONFLICT AND DANGERS
INHERENT IN NON-AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT.

B. US STRONGLY SUPPORTS EFFORTS OF ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (SPECIFICALLY OAU MEDIATION COMMISSION CHAIRED BY NIGERIA) TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL AND DURABLE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF OAU AND UN CHARTERS. WE HOPE OAU'S EFFORTS WILL SOON BEAR FRUIT.

C. AT SOME POINT THE AFRICAN STATES MAY DESIRE TO INVOLVE THE UN IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THIS PROBLEM AND THE US BELIEVES THAT THE UN COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE AT THE PROPER TIME. US HAS NO CURRENT PLANS TO BRING THE ISSUE BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT OAU BELIEVES TO DO SO WOULD

COMPLICATE ITS EFFORTS.

D. US BELIEVES ADDITIONAL ARMS AND MILITARY EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM WILL PROLONG THE CONFLICT AND SUFFERING AND PRODUCE NEITHER AN EARLY NOR DURABLE SOLUTION.

E. TO AVOID SUCH A PROLONGATION OF THE BLOODSHED, AND IN KEEPING WITH OUR BELIEF THAT AFRICA SHOULD NOT BE AN ARENA FOR GREAT POWER COMPETITION, THE US HAS EXERCISED RESTRAINT BY NOT SUPPLYING ARMS DIRECTLY
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OR INDIRECTLY TO EITHER SOMALIA OR ETHIOPIA.

F. US IS NOT TAKING SIDES IN THIS DISPUTE AS WE WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOLUTION, NOT COMPLICATE IT. THE CALL FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BY OURSELVES AND OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES FAVORS NEITHER ETHIOPIA NOR SOMALIA.

G. THE US SUPPORTS PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF STATES IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD. PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS LAST WEEK MADE IT CLEAR THAT US WILL NOT RECOGNIZE FORCIBLE CHANGES IN BOUNDARIES. WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT TO ACCUSE SOMALIA OF "AGGRESSION", AS DEMANDED BY ETHIOPIA, WOULD LESSEN OUR ABILITY TO ASSIST IN A SETTLEMENT, THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE THE DECISION NOT TO SUPPLY DEFENSIVE ARMS TO SOMALIA WHILE ITS TROOPS ARE IN THE OGADEN.

H. US BELIEVES THAT THERE SHOULD BE MORE DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A SETTLEMENT AND POSSIBLE ROLES FOR THE UN ON AN INFORMAL BASIS AMONG DIFFERENT

DELEGATIONS IN NEW YORK.

2. MISSION OFFICERS SHOULD MAKE FOREGOING POINTS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE TO AFRICAN DELEGATIONS (LESS ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA). IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT US HAS NO PLANS FOR UN ACTION BUT US IS CONCERNED ABOUT HORN SITUATION AND DESIRES TO EXCHANGE INFORMAL VIEWS ON WHAT STATES INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO AN EARLY NEGOTIATED OGADEN SETTLEMENT.

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